

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----118097 011803Z /42

P 011606Z FEB 78
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5394

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 GENEVA 01519

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FOR S/NM AND IO/HDC ONLY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SNAR
SUBJECT: DND DIRECTOR POSITION

REF: (A) STATE 23155; (B) GENEVA 814; (C) 77 GENEVA 11265;
(D) 77 GENEVA 9138

1. DR. GEORGE LING, DND DIRECTOR, RETURNED TO GENEVA EVENING OF JANUARY 31 AFTER SHORT VISIT TO INTERPOL MEETING IN PARIS AND MEDICAL DISCUSSIONS CONCERNING NEW DRUG IN MUNICH. DURING CONVERSATION WITH MISSION OFFICER FEBRUARY 1, DR. LING STATED THAT HE HAD STILL HEARD NOTHING FROM UN PERSONNEL CONCERNING HIS EXTENSION BEYOND APRIL 30, THE TERMINATION DATE OF HIS CURRENT EXTENSION. HE SAID HE MET THE NEW GENEVA DIRECTOR GENERAL LAST WEEK, BUT THE SUBJECT OF HIS FURTHER EXTENSION DID NOT ARISE. HE SAID HE HAS BEEN "PLAYING IT COOL" AND NOT APPLYING THE PRESSURE WHICH HIS FRIENDS HAVE BEEN ADVISING. HE QUOTED MR. RUEDAS, DIRECTOR, ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES, UN GENEVA, AS ADVISING HIM TO SEEK TO HAVE
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DELEGATES AT THE NEXT CND SESSION EXPRESS THEIR SUPPORT FOR HIS EXTENSION TO THE DIRECTOR GENERAL. LING SAID HE COULD NOT DO THIS HIMSELF, BUT A FRIEND OF HIS MIGHT DO SO. LING ALSO QUOTED RUEDAS AS STATING THAT HE KNEW OF NO REASON FOR DENIAL OF AN EXTENSION BECAUSE "HE THOUGHT LING WAS DOING A FINE JOB".

2. MISSION OFFICER THEN CHATTED WITH MR. CLAUDE SIROIS, NARCOTICS OFFICER AT THE CANADIAN MISSION, CONCERNING CND PREPARATIONS AND ASKED IN PASSING WHETHER THERE WERE ANY DEVELOPMENTS RE LING'S EXTENSION. SIROIS REPLIED THAT THERE WERE NONE, THAT HE HAD TALKED TO LING LAST WEEK, AND THAT IT APPEARED THE SYG HAD NOT YET MADE UP HIS MIND. HE SAID LING UNDERTOOK TO NOTIFY HIM PROMPTLY OF ANY DEVELOPMENTS.

3. AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED, (REFS B AND C), THERE HAVE BEEN A GREAT MANY RUMORS LOCALLY ABOUT A POSSIBLE REPLACEMENT FOR DR. LING, SOME TO THE EFFECT THAT SAENGER, DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR OPERATIONS, WOULD MOVE UP TO THE LING POSITION AND THAT THE SAENGER SLOT WOULD BE FILLED BY MRS. WALDHEIM-NATURAL, OTHERS TO THE EFFECT THAT MR. ROSSBOROUGH OF UNDRO WOULD REPLACE LING. THESE WERE REPLACED LAST WEEK BY THE CURRENT RUMOR, BASED ON A TELEPHONE CALL BY A RESPONSIBLE DND OFFICIAL TO ANOTHER HIGH OFFICIAL IN UN HEADQUARTERS PERSONNEL, TO THE EFFECT THAT DR. LING'S EXTENSION WAS ASSURED. A FREQUENT JUSTIFICATION FOR FORMER RUMORS IS ALLEGED UN HEADQUARTER'S BELIEF THAT LING TRAVELS TOO MUCH.

4. COMMENT. MISSION BELIEVES THAT, ASIDE FROM MAINTAINING AMITY WITH THE CANADIANS, US INTERESTS LIE IN DIRECTION OF PROVIDING BEST POSSIBLE LEADERSHIP FOR
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DIVISION. OUR OWN APPRAISAL OF LING IS CONTAINED REF D PARA 3. WE DO NOT KNOW WHOM THE SYG IS PROPOSING TO REPLACE HIM. WE WOULD CONSIDER THE SAENGER/WALDHEIM-NATURAL COMBINATION RUMORED ABOVE TO BE MOST UNFORTUNATE, HE FOR REASONS STATED REF D PARA 3, AND SHE BECAUSE WE DOUBT WHETHER PLACING THE SYG'S DAUGHTER IN THE DEPUTY POSITION WOULD CONTRIBUTE TO STRENGTHENING THE ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE OF THE DIVISION. WE ALSO DOUBT HER SYMPATHY WITH AND UNDERSTANDING OF U.S. CONCERNS. AS FOR ROSSBOROUGH, MISSION NOTES ANTIPATHY TOWARDS HIM IN UN NARCOTICS CIRCLES BASED ON HEARSAY TO THE EFFECT THAT HE IS "NOT VERY GOOD". A MISSION OFFICER WHO HAS DEALT WITH HIM AT UNDRO, HOWEVER, DESCRIBES HIM AS A FIRM, EFFICIENT ADMINISTRATOR. AT ALL EVENTS, ROSSBOROUGH REPORTEDLY HAS NO EXPERIENCE IN THE FIELD OF INTERNATIONAL DRUG CONTROL.

5. UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, MISSION WOULD SUGGEST THAT THE FIRST STEP WOULD BE FOR USUN TO CLARIFY WHAT THE SYG HAS IN MIND BY DISCREETLY CHECKING INTO THE MATTER. IF HE HAS AN EXCELLENT CANDIDATE, WE COULD STAY OUT OF THE MATTER. IF SUCH CHECKING IS NOT POSSIBLE, OR IF IT RE-

VEALS HE HAS A POOR CANDIDATE, U.S. COULD INFORM CANADIANS
AND AUTHORIZE THEM TO QUOTE OUR POSITION TO THE EFFECT
THAT, ON THE WHOLE, WE ARE SATISFIED WITH LING'S
PERFORMANCE.

6. MISSION HOPES DEPARTMENT CAN DISSUADE CANADIANS FROM
EXPRESSING THEIR DISPLEASURE AT THE SYG'S REPORTED
DECISION BY RETALIATING AGAINST UNFDAC (REF A PARA 2).
THE FUND'S TASK REMAINS TO BE ACHIEVED WHOEVER HEADS THE

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ACTION SS-25

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-----118081 011804Z /42
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 GENEVA 01519

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DIVISION, AND IT IS A TASK OF SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES TO ALL
COUNTRIES PLAGUED BY DRUG ABUSE. END COMMENT. SORENSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS, GOVERNMENT AGENCIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978GENEVA01519
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780048-0574
Format: TEL
From: GENEVA
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197802107/aaaadmwx.tel
Line Count: 151
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: eb7308ce-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY, STADIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY, STADIS
Reference: 78 STATE 23155, 78 GENEVA 814, 77 GENEVA 11265, 77 GENEVA 9138
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3445852
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DND DIRECTOR POSITION
TAGS: SNAR, (LING, GEORGE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/eb7308ce-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014